When the blood of Jews spurts from your knife,
Germany enters a new happy life.

The S-D and other democratic organizations tried to create a republican mass organization that could oppose the Nazis and Communists in open-air demonstrations and, eventually, in street fighting. This organization, the Reichsbanner, claimed to have several million members but consisted mainly of substantial middle-aged bourgeois who abhorred marching and other military exercises.

Von Papen resigned after a clash with von Hindenburg on the question that had led to the resignation of Brüning—the division of large estates in East Prussia. Then von Hindenburg appointed General Schleicher as Chancellor.

There were rumors that the new head of the government was inclined to follow a middle-of-the-road policy. In addressing the press, he made some remarks designed to gain the sympathy of the workers. Then he invited Leipart to the Chancellery. An emergency session of the board was called to receive Leipart's report on his interview with the general. "He sat across the desk from me, but he did not look at me and he seemed to be talking to himself," Leipart reported. "He said that as a military man he would prefer to serve his Emperor on the battlefield but he was ready to defend the Republic against the Communists and the Nazis. He could keep them off if he had forces on which to rely. He asked me whether the unions would support him if he committed himself to execute their economic program. I asked him what kind of support he expected from us. He replied that he had thought of direct action, striking, street fighting. I told him he should have addressed himself to the Reichsbanner and the party. He said that he distrusted the politicians but would be ready to act with us because he considered us good, honest German men. He seemed sincere and he took a serious risk in talking to me that way. But I do not trust him. He is not a cold-blooded schemer, but he may be a daydreamer. . . ."

The board decided to wait and see. Berlin was full of rumors. Schleicher was gaining the support of the army . . . Schleicher was planning to arrest Hitler and von Papen . . . Schleicher intended to call a committee of psychiatrists to examine the health of the senile President and confine him in a mansion with padded walls. Then, on January 30, von Hindenburg issued an order removing General Schleicher from the Chancellorship and appointing Hitler in his place. That evening a torchlight parade was held in front of the President's palace. Hitler's Brown Shirts and the Steel Helmets had joined forces. Von Hindenburg and the new Chancellor together accepted the allegiance of the good people of the capital. The crowd